



Atty. Dkt. No. 076326-0219

3619

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Alexander AULBACH
Title: RETAINING DEVICE
Appl. No.: 10/024,516
Filing Date: December 21, 2001
Examiner: Unassigned
Art Unit: 3619

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9-10-03

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b), before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, and within three (3) months of the mailing date of the foreign search reports.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

Documents B1 and B2 are in English.

Documents B1-B3 were cited as being relevant during the prosecution of the corresponding European application.

Document B4 was cited as being relevant during the prosecution of the corresponding German application.

A copy of the Search Reports are attached setting forth the portion of each document considered relevant by the examiner. An English-language counterpart of the foreign-language documents has not been provided. The absence of a translation or an English-language counterpart document does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider any submitted document (37 C.F.R. § 1.98 and MPEP § 609). English language abstracts are attached.

Applicant respectfully requests that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP § 609.

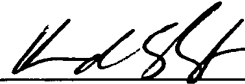
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

9/3/03

By



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